

invitation to all sections in J&K to join in the process of dialogue initiated by the Prime Minister through Shri K.C. Pant.

The security forces have met with greater successes in their operations during June and July this year.

Job cuts in Subsidiaries of CIL

1839. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Expenditure Reforms Commission has recommended job cuts in subsidiaries of Coal India Limited;
- (b) if so, the facts and details thereof;
- (c) whether the Officers of the Coal Controller throughout the country have also been wound up;
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) whether the decision of the Government to have cuts in subsidiaries of Coal India Limited will have any adverse impact on the employees and workers;-,if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) and (b) The Expenditure Reforms Commission (ERC) in para 30 of its report, has made the following observations on manpower rationalization in Coal India Limited:—

"It is estimated that nearly one fifth of the total manpower of 5,62,071 is surplus compared to the requirement in CIL collieries. A recent study has revealed that in ECL, which has the highest level of losses in this group, as many as 64,000 out of a total work force of 1,33,383 are deployed in 64 loss making collieries. The incidence of wage cost in these 64 mines is 112% of the sale price of coal. CIL's current year's budget visualized coverage of 11000 surplus personnel under the Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) at a total cost of Rs. 242 crores. If all the seven subsidiaries are to become competitive and hold their place in the emerging scenario, then highest priority needs to be given to a manpower rationalization scheme that will cover more than one lakh surplus work force, mostly in ECL, BCCL and CCL, under the Voluntary Retirement Scheme within the next two year period. The funds required for the VRS could be met out of the surpluses of the profit making subsidiaries

or through productivity gains from manpower rationalization and other efficiency improvement measures."

(c) and (d) Field offices of the Coal Controller's Organisation set up for sampling and analysing of coal by deploying Coal India Limited's staff have been closed in March, 2001. However, the main office of Coal Controller at Kolkatta and its branch office at Dhanbad have not been affected.

(e) Towards rationalization of surplus manpower in ECL, CCL & BCCL, grants-in-aid for implementation of Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) are being provided by Government of India. Up to January 2001, Rs. 505.00 crore have been released under VRS and 24,877 persons have availed of VRS in ECL, CCL & BCCL. For the year 2001-2002, a target of 11,500 persons has been set for retirement under VRS in these three companies. A provision of Rs. 156.99 crores has been made; this provision will be augmented later in the year.

Reduction of Offices and Staff of Coal Companies

†1840. SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government are contemplating to reduce the number of offices and staff of Coal Companies in the country; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the criteria fixed by Government to protect the interests of the employees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government has not fixed any criteria for reducing the number of offices of Coal Companies. However, a certain rationalization is being done by CIL and its subsidiaries keeping in view operational requirements and commercial viability. As far as reduction of staff is concerned, the Government has introduced

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.